

Libby Cabin (Pest House)  
Approximately one mile north of town  
South Pass City  
Fremont County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-39

HABS  
WYO,  
7-SOPAC,  
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20005

LIBBY CABIN  
(PEST HOUSE)HABS  
WYO,  
7-SOPAC,  
12-

Location: Original location: South edge of South Pass City near Price Street, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming. Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680830.4703800.

Present location: East side of access road from State Route 28, just north of United States Steel Company railroad tracks, approximately one mile north of town, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming. Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.681100.4705010.

Present Owner and Occupant: John Starkovich.

Present Use: Residence.

Statement of Significance: This structure is typical of a nineteenth century frontier log cabin.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1869.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of property: Township 29 North, Range 100 West, Section 20, Lot 8, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.

(Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) This cabin was originally about 200 feet south of the Sweetwater County Jail. Although there is no record of this building in the deed books of Carter County, Dakota Territory or in the Sweetwater County deed books of Wyoming Territory it is thought to have been erected about 1869. During the 1890's this cabin was probably used as a place of confinement for people ill with measles and came to be known as "The Pest House." In the early 1900's, the owner of the cabin was accepted to be Anna Tibbals,

though this is not recorded in the Fremont County records. In 1953, the property was bought by John Starkovich. Starkovich moved the cabin to its present location in 1968.

4. Alterations and additions: In 1953, when John Starkovich became the owner, only the shell of the building remained. He paneled the interior, put in doors and windows, and placed sheet rock on the walls. After the building was moved to its present location, it was repainted and the back wall replaced. A cabin that had been attached to the building was also removed.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photographic file, Wyoming Recreation Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Fremont County, Abstract of Titles for Township 29,  
Fremont County Courthouse, Laramie Wyoming.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation  
Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June  
19, 1973.

Starkovich, John, owner of Libby Cabin; interview in  
Lander, Wyoming on June 30, 1973.

- b. Secondary and published sources:

Muths, Thomas. Restoration Master Plan, South Pass City,  
Wyoming. Jackson, Wyoming: Design Associates, 1972.

Prepared by John Paige  
Project Historian  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This cabin is a typical example of the early miner's and prospector's cabins built in South Pass City. It is the only cabin dating from the 1860's-70's.

2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This simple rectangular one-story cabin is approximately 21' x 17'.
2. Foundations: The present foundations are concrete block. The original foundations are unknown.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Hand-hewn lodgepole pine log walls with corner posts of logs. The gables have been re-surfaced in green asphalt shingles. The east (rear) wall was replaced at the time the cabin was relocated and is now unfinished rough-sawn vertical boards overlapping each other.
4. Structural system, framing: Log bearing walls with log floor joists.
5. Porches, stoops: 5' x 3 1/2' porch with 2" x 4" railing on front of house. Covered 3' x 3 1/2' stoop at side door.
6. Chimneys: One in center of house.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance door has eight small lights in the upper door. The side door is a solid panel. There is an exterior screen door on each opening.
  - b. Windows and shutters: A double-hung window with six-over-six light sash is located on either side of front door on west (front) wall. A similar window on the rear wall was removed at the time the cabin was moved and the rear wall replaced.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable with wooden shingles on west slope and green rolled roofing on the east slope.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves with fascia board on gable ends, ten-inch overhang.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: This one-story cabin consists of one large sitting-

sleeping room on the south into which one enters from the front and one small room for eating on the north.

2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: Wood planks covered with linoleum.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: While the original interior wall finish was probably exposed logs (possibly covered with muslin and paper), there is now a covering of prefinished plywood textured to appear as random width vertical paneling. The ceilings are gypsum board, and painted white.
5. Doorways and doors: Near the front wall, there is one doorway with no door between the two rooms.
6. Mechanical equipment: Electricity has been added to the building. There are two cast-iron stoves. The one in the sleeping/sitting room is an upright No. 40 by the Atlantic Stove Co. The one in the eating room is an 8-18 "Home St. Clair" by the Belleville Stove Co. of Belleville, Illinois.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The original building location faced north on the south edge of South Pass City near Price St. The present location faces west just north of the U. S. Steel Co. railroad tracks on the access road to South Pass City from State Route 28 and about one mile north of town.

Prepared by J. William Rudd  
Architect  
Project Supervisor  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings

were prepared by John Uhler, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.